

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the consideration given the present application. Claims 1-7, 9-14, 16-23 and 25 are currently pending. Claims 1-5, 7, 9-12, 14 and 16-23 have been amended, claims 8, 15 and 24 has been cancelled and claim 25 added through this reply. Claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21 are independent. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendment and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seeks timely allowance of all pending claims.

Amendment

The Amendments are made only for clarification purposes, not made in response to the rejections and do not narrow the claims. In particular, the subject matter of claim 8 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 3 and the subject matter of claim 15 has been incorporated into claims 10 and 19-21.

Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claim 24. Claim 24 is cancelled rendering the objection moot. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Office Action rejects claims 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 22 and 23 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,883,621 to Iwamura in view of U.S. Patent Publication No.

2004/0203435 to Karlquist et al. (Karlquist); and rejects claims 5, 6, 9, 12, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Iwamura in view of Karlquist and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0063589 to Haines et al. (Haines). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “display control means for controlling the display means so that the display means displays images respectively indicating the plurality of transmission devices, in a form according to the degree of reception detected by the reception degree detection means” and “the display control means controls the display means so that the display means displays images for respectively indicating the plurality of transmission devices in a form according to the degree of reception detected by the reception degree detection means.” Independent claims 3, 10 and 19-21 recite similar subject matter. The applied references fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21.

With respect to the reception (communication) state detection means recited in the current claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21, the Examiner alleges that FIG. 3 and column 4, line 55-column 5, line 50 of Iwamura disclose that the network reception connections are discovered upon startup and when a new node joins the network.

In Iwamura, the device that the IRD 905 is communicating with (FIG. 6) and the device a certain device is connected with (Fig. 7) are detected. However, Iwamura neither discloses nor suggests detecting the degree of communication, such as “the state of communication is in a good condition” or “the state of communication is in a bad condition.” In order to generate a topology map for a wired network, it is necessary to detect whether a connection exists or not and whether communication is possible or not, but it is not necessary to detect the degree of communication.

Regarding claims 8 and 15, the Office Action alleges that column 6, lines 15-18 of Iwamura disclose that “the device icons may animate when the devices are in active communication.” However, Iwamura only describes “when DVCR 1 is operating,” and Iwamura does not suggest changing an icon according to the degree of communication with the DVCR 1.

Haines and Karlquist fails to cure the deficiencies of Iwamura. Accordingly, the applied references, alone or in any combination, fail to teach or suggest the recited features of independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21.

For at least the reasons stated above, independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21 are patentably distinct from the applied references. The dependent claims are at least allowable by virtue of their dependence on corresponding allowable independent claims 1, 3, 10 and 19-21.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims based on the applied references is respectfully requested.

New Claim 25 is Patentable

New claim 25 is added. New claim 25 is patentable at least due to its dependence on allowable independent claim 3 and for the additional features it recites.

Conclusion

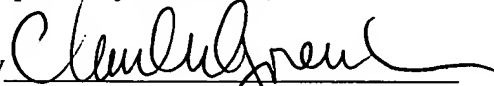
In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Obert H. Chu, Reg. No. 52,744, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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